



MEDIA RELEASE – 26<sup>th</sup> August, 2015

## **Local Spring Field Days for the Esperance Port Zone**

Farmers will have the opportunity to check out new and emerging grain varieties and hear about the latest research at their local spring field days next month.

There are a number of field days planned throughout the Esperance Port Zone that will enable farmers to keep up to date with the latest research and information within the grains industry and talk with researchers and agribusiness representatives.

The South East Premium Wheat Growers' Association (SEPWA) wheat, barley and canola variety trials are always a highlight as they are geographically spread throughout the region and grown on a range of soil types and seasonal conditions.

The trials are a part of the ongoing improvement of grain production on the south coast which are conducted by SEPWA and assist farmers to select varieties that are better suited to their specific agronomic conditions.

The varieties are sourced from a number of breeding and commercial companies and they are based on near neighbour design farm scale trial plots which allow new varieties to be compared to the farmer control variety.

At harvest, all varieties are statistically analysed for yield and quality testing is performed including protein, moisture, screenings, hectolitre weight, colour in barley, and oil percentage in canola, falling numbers, gluten and starch in wheat.

The localised data generated from the trials gives farmers greater confidence in that a new variety is suited to their local production environment prior to adopting it into their own seeding program.

Local wheat, barley and canola researchers will be in attendance at the various field days and will be accompanied by SEPWA Trials Coordinator, Bill Sharp. They will be available to talk about agronomic differences between the varieties at the field days.

SEPWA sponsors will also be in attendance at a number of field days to discuss grain marketing, agronomic issues, local trials and research, finance and more.

Other issues for discussion include the rationalisation of barley varieties within the Esperance Port Zone, OP versus TT canola varieties and more.

The field days will all include a BBQ and a few refreshments.

Field days will be held throughout the Esperance Port Zone and include:

North Mallee – September 9<sup>th</sup>, contact DAFWA - Lee Chester: 9083 1111

Condingup/Beaumont – September 10<sup>th</sup>, contact Lyndon Mickel: 0427 766 029

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## South East Premium Wheat Growers Association MEDIA RELEASE

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Cascade - September 11<sup>th</sup>, contact Murray Ayers: 0427 792 018  
West Ravensthorpe – September 15<sup>th</sup>, contact RAIN- Elisa Spengler: 0417 174 299  
EDRS - September 17<sup>th</sup>, contact Niki Curtis: 0447 908 311  
Lake King - September 22<sup>nd</sup>, contact RAIN - Elisa Spengler: 0417 174 299  
Neridup - Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September, contact Jane Meiklejohn: 0408 956 215

Mark the date of your local field date in your diary now. For further information or any queries contact SEPWA Executive Officer, Niki Curtis on 9083 1125.

*Photo caption – Farmers will get to view a range of trials at their local spring field day.*

### **MEDIA CONTACT:**

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